



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM OUR DIRECTORS



Carrying Hope Forward: MCVRC Updates & Upcoming Events

At MCVRC, we remain committed to our mission of providing unwavering support, advocacy, and legal services for victims of crime. We are pleased to share some important updates with you, our community of supporters and partners.

Sustaining Our Work Through Grant Funding

We are grateful to announce that MCVRC has received grant funding to maintain our dedicated staff and core programs for this next fiscal year. These funds ensure that we can continue standing by crime victims and their families, offering the care, advocacy, and resources they deserve during some of life's most difficult moments.

Open Houses: Closing with Community and Connection

Our series of Open Houses is nearing its conclusion, and we have been thrilled to meet so many survivors, families, and community partners across Maryland. The final in-person Open House was held in Baltimore City on Thursday, August 29th. To ensure accessibility for all, our last Open House will be hosted virtually on Tuesday, September 16th, for clients who feel most comfortable speaking Spanish. We are honored to welcome Attorney Cristina Caro Tovar as our guest speaker for this special event. Please help us spread the word and join us!

Save the Date: Annual Victim Rights Gala

Mark your calendars! On Friday, October 3rd, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., we will gather for MCVRC's 5th Annual Victims' Rights Gala. This evening is not only a celebration of resilience and hope but also a critical fundraiser to sustain our mission. Tickets are on sale now—get yours today! If you or your organization is able, we invite you to become an event sponsor. Your support makes a lasting difference in the lives of crime victims and the longevity of MCVRC.

Annual Ceremony of Remembrance

Each year, we come together to honor and remember your loved one and all Maryland's homicide victims. This year's Annual Ceremony of Remembrance will be held on Saturday, October 11th, at 8:30 a.m. at the Prince George's County Courthouse (off Judge's Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD). Following the ceremony, a reception will take place at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square, 530ⁿ Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD. We invite all families, supporters, and community partners to join us in honoring the memory of loved ones and standing together in unity and healing.

Thank you for your continued support of MCVRC. Together, we ensure that the voices of crime victims are heard, their rights protected, and their healing journeys supported.

Let's keep moving forward, together.

Joanna D. Mupanduki
Deputy Director

Journey To Justice

We're excited to announce the launch of MCVRC's new **Employee of the Month Award "Journey to Justice"**-- a monthly recognition to celebrate team members who go above and beyond in their role. This initiative is designed to foster a culture of appreciation, collaboration, and excellence across all departments.

Congratulations to our very first awardee: Marta Fuentes! 🎉

Marta was nominated by the Operations team for her dedication, teamwork, and client-centered focus.

Starting next month, the current Employee of the Month will pass the honor forward by nominating a colleague from a *different department*, keeping the recognition rotating across the organization.

Thank you, Marta, for setting a high standard and thank you to everyone who continues to make MCVRC a great place to work!



Marta Fuentes

ADVOCATE

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

September 2025

MCVRC On the Move





Share Your Story!

Has MCVRC supported you during a difficult time? We're looking for clients who are willing to record a short selfie video (up to 2 minutes) sharing how MCVRC has helped them. Your story could inspire and empower others going through similar experiences.

If you're interested, please reach out to Casey Rosil, at rosil@mdcrimevictims.org

Thank you for considering sharing your voice!

TOWN HALL SERIES

A huge thank you to The Langbein Family Trust and The Law Office of Hammad S. Matin, P.A, for their generous sponsorship of our Town Hall Series!

This month, we hosted an insightful session in Baltimore City, and if you missed it, no worries! It was live-streamed! You can catch the full recording here: [Baltimore City Town Hall](#)

If you know someone who would benefit from this discussion but couldn't attend, please help us share this link!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Survivors of Homicide Victims Support Group

PLEASE NOTE that our monthly homicide meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**. It will be held in a hybrid format, both virtually and in person at the Upper Marlboro Office (1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD).

The Support Group is a safe place for friends and family members of victims of homicide to meet, discuss, and support each other. All participants need to call us and request a referral to the homicide support group only (if you prefer individual counseling, we offer that too). **You can reach MCVRC at 877-VICTIM1 to get put on the referral list.**

2. Spanish Town Hall



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL: VICTIMS RIGHTS IN MARYLAND

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

5:00 -7:00 PM



GUEST SPEAKER

Cristina Caro Tovar
Bilingual Attorney

**Learn about
your Legal
Rights**

- Domestic Violence/
IPV
- Assault
- CICB
- And more

Open Q&A

**Ask real life questions
and get real life
answers!**

**Onsite
Resources**

**Apply and get details
about resource
partners**

OUR MISSION

To ensure that victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victims' rights and services.

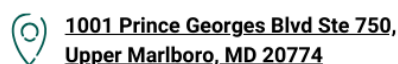
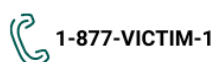
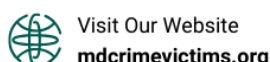
RESOURCES:



THANK YOU SUPPORTERS:



The Law Office of
IAMMAD S. MATIN, P.



3. Save The Date: Annual Victims' Rights Gala

MCVRC
Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Victims' Rights Gala

**KINSHIP
CONNECTING
& HEALING**

October 3, 2025

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LAURA NEUMAN
Survivor/Advocate

HONORING
DAVID SANFORD with the
Roberta Roper Lifetime
Achievement Award

Crescent Cities Charities | Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLC | Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center | In memory of Al & Helen Cordero | TROLLINGER LAW
AZRAEL FRANZ | BOWERS LAW | The Langbein Family Trust | NFP | SA-TECH Systems Application & Technologies, Inc.

Our 5th Annual Victims' Rights Gala – a powerful evening of Kinship < CONNECTING > Healing is around the corner.

This year, we move forward with over four decades of advocacy to honor the strength, resilience, and unity of Maryland's victims' rights community.

For those interested joining Crescent Cities Charities Inc., Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLC, Adventist HealthCare, Al & Helen Cordero, Trollinger Law, Azrael Franz, Bowers Law, The Langbein Family Trust, NFP, and SA-TECH in sponsoring our upcoming Gala or learning more about our organization, **please contact Sandra Sanna-Buckles at ssannabuckles@mdcrimevictims.org or call/text to 240-335-4037**

Mark your calendar and be part of this meaningful celebration.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase your ticket!

4. Ceremony of Remembrance

October 11, 2025

4

Join us at the Ceremony of Remembrance, a peaceful event dedicated to honoring those whose lives were tragically lost to criminal violence. This meaningful ceremony will take place at the Prince

George's County Courthouse, where the pathway and garden not only honor those taken from us but also symbolize your journey of healing and remembrance.

If you are planning on attending, please RSVP before September 15th.

[Click HERE to RSVP](#)



Stay in the Loop!

Keep up with all our *Lunch & Learns* and the latest updates by subscribing to our YouTube channel. Stay informed and ahead of the game, hit subscribe today!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

Join our Team!

We're Hiring!

Upper Marlboro, MD

STAFF ATTORNEY

Baltimore

STAFF ATTORNEY

www.mdcrimevictims.org

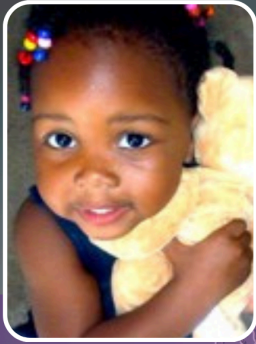
We're seeking **FOUR** highly skilled, innovative, visionary professionals to provide day-to-day support to Maryland crime victims.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)

#WHYWEFIGHTWEDNESDAY

Each day we find motivation to continue to be a voice for those who need one. We started these posts on social media last year, but since some of you are not on social media, we are now including our monthly motivations here.

These are a small fraction of the faces that motivate us. Their names and photos are taken from our Ceremony of Remembrance event slideshow. Each Wednesday, we share a life that was taken on that date and we celebrate them and use their face to remind us that crime is not victimless. These people are real and their families miss them. These faces are "why we fight."



Shalya Shante Sikyala

6/28/07 - 8/6/10

#whywefight



Shakur Sylvestre Sikyala

8/12/04 - 8/6/10

#whywefight



Dawn Yvette Brooks

1/31/72-8/6/10

#whywefight



Zachariah Hubbard

2/12/95 - 8/13/15

#whywefight



Do you have events you want us to attend?
Do you have something you would like to
share in our next newsletter?

[EMAIL US AND LET US KNOW!](#)

Feeling the love ❤️? Share it here by
supporting our work 🙌! Your 💰 goes
a long way to support victims of crime
and their families!

Donate now!

MCVRC is a non-profit organization funded by government
and community grants, and generous contributions from
former clients and the public who believe in our cause.

Copies of this newsletter will be made available on our website: [Access it here!](#)



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.
1001 Prince George's Blvd, Ste 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
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